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## COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-6035

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

### SUPPORT THE DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL VOTE YES ON H.R. 4546

IKE SKELTON, MISSOURI  
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ROBERT S. RANGEL, STAFF DIRECTOR

Dear Colleague:

The President's budget request for fiscal year 2003 continues his commitment to increase the nation's investment in research and development by providing an increase of \$5.5 billion for research, development, test, & evaluation (RDT&E) over last year's level. The request included a significant overall increase for basic and applied research and advanced development – the critical science and technology (S&T) base that is the keystone of U.S. military technological superiority and transformation in the future. While the Department described this request as balanced to address high priority needs of the armed services as well as future modernization needs, the budget request still does not adequately address a number of high priority unfunded RDT&E requirements, including Army and Navy S&T programs.

The Armed Services Committee has taken a strong bipartisan stand in support of critically needed modernization increases for our armed forces. H.R. 4546 recommends \$56.5 billion for research and development (\$914 million over the President's adjusted request). H.R. 4546 strengthens service S&T programs and supports bipartisan initiatives in counterterrorism, cyber-warfare, defense against weapons of mass destruction, and the family of layered ballistic missile defense programs. This bill takes the necessary steps to support the near-term and the long-term modernization of our armed forces and to prioritize service transformation efforts.

We urge you to support H.R. 4546 and join this committee's efforts to provide adequate support for defense modernization. Vote "YES" on H.R. 4546.

Sincerely,



Duncan Hunter  
Chairman, Military Research  
& Development Subcommittee